

Cllr Simon Dudley
Democratic Services
Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

27th February 2017

Dear Cllr Dudley,

I am writing to update you on the progress of our build and to seek financial reassurance with a view of moving our project forward, as we are rapidly meeting completion milestone dates if we are to successfully complete this scheme by September 2018.

As agreed, and at short notice, the school has worked tirelessly to develop a feasible plan within a lean and limited budget that will allow for the immediate expansion of Lowbrook Academy to a two form entry school. This plan, as you are aware comprised of two phases: The first phase has gone largely to plan and we were able to accommodate the additional 30 pupils in September 2016; Phase Two has now, however, reached a critical phase.

Last week, we received the following communication from Phil Grover at Thomson, Roddick and Laurie, architect for this project: "Until we have a document from the landlord indicating the agreed and approved boundary there can be no planning application...As we have highlighted previously, without the above boundary decision, the project has reached an impasse and the milestone delivery date of August 2018 is in doubt....If the boundary position changes, it is highly likely the current building plan will be incompatible: the space and tapered shape of the previously agreed boundary limits any building movement. In consequence there will be considerable delay whilst the scheme is substantially remodeled."

I am pleased to confirm that Ann Pfeiffer, along with Gill Newman of Cox Green School, has now agreed the boundary and I believe that this is now with RBWM Legal to be formally added to our lease.

The Academy agreed to undertake this project after a last minute turn around in policy from RBWM, however it has always been at the promise that ***the development would not compromise the education of the existing children or the education of the children in the future.***

With delivery milestones being very tight we have, as of today with the agreement of Ann Pfeiffer, issued the instruction to go to full planning and are aiming for a tender date to be issued within four weeks. We are now in the position where we require funding for this scheme to be agreed in full as we are in no financial position to proceed without this assurance.



The Governors have been given the deadline of 6 March 2017 by your Officers to agree school places for 2017. We may well be in the regrettable position of only being able to admit 30 pupils for academic year 2017-18 if we cannot demonstrate that we can safely, financially and effectively provide accommodation by September 2018.

Having just received the possible list of applicants it is most encouraging that if we take 60 pupils, all catchment children will get an offer and only one child who has a sibling at school may miss out on a place. This is excellent. Conversely, if we were to take only 30 pupils, 22 catchment pupils and 9 siblings will not be offered places. Taking 60 is clearly the desired outcome for us all.

We would much appreciate a response to our letter dated 19th December 2016 so that the Governors can make the right decisions within the short time frames we are now facing.

The Governors look forward to working closely with you so as to achieve the best outcomes for this proposed expansion however, as you can see from the information outlined above, are now under extreme pressure to make vital decisions that could positively or negatively affect this school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Rooney', written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Rooney
Executive Principal

cc

Kevin McDaniel - Head of Schools and Education Services

Cllr Natasha Airey

Cllr Paul Brimacombe

Cllr Ross McWilliams

Cllr Clive Bullock